



COMMITMENT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12 TREASURES OF THE TRANSFORMED LIFE

Our six week study culminates with us making our commitments to follow Christ by our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness in the worship services this Sunday at 9 and 11:15 a.m. If you have not received a card in the mail, there will be cards available in worship. The Stewardship Committee wants everyone to participate at whatever level they can. They are challenging every giver to take a 1% step up in their monetary offerings. Even if you cannot make a financial pledge at this time, we still want you to offer your spiritual gifts and time. Everyone who comes forward with a commitment will be given a re-usable cotton bag with our church logo on it so that you may continue to witness to your faith out in the world. The bags themselves have a faith story as they were made by persons at Lighthouse for the Blind in San Angelo.

My spiritual counsel about financial giving every year is as follows: 1. Don't try to jump immediately to a tithe (10%), 2. Pray, 3. Talk as a family, 4. Set a percentage of your income (proportional giving), 5. Give thanks, 6. Take a step up of 1% or more.

Please remember that you can give on-line at our website, westlake-umc.org, by credit card, debit card, checking account or savings account. It is safe, fast, and efficient.

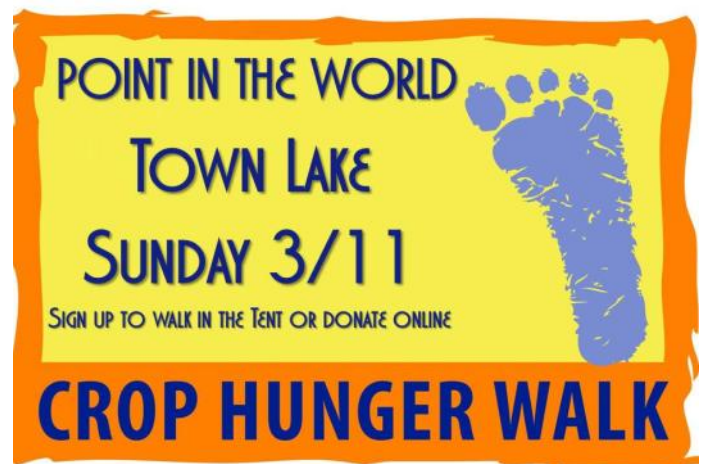
Following One, Serving All,
Lynn

SAVE THE DATE--RETHINK CHURCH--APRIL 22, 2012

For the third year we will call off morning worship in order to become worship in the world as we do service projects all around the Austin area. Two new twists are added this year: 1. We will do projects all during the day as your group finds the best time to meet a need, 2. We will gather in our worship center at 5 p.m. that Sunday evening for a concert by singer/songwriter Sara Hickman, the State Musician of Texas, followed by finger food in our gym, complete with pictures from that day's ministries.

NEWS FROM THE POINT

THANKS TO THE WOMEN OF WESTLAKE... We met a young lady named Yolanda 'Under the Bridge' last month who expressed her need for professional clothing. Yolanda had been employed through a temp agency up until recently and is now struggling to find work to support herself and her 16 year old son. Being aware of the abundance of lovely women's clothing which has been donated, we were delighted to invite Yolanda for a free shopping spree in the service committee closet last week! She loved it! She asked us to extend grateful, heartfelt thanks to all the women of Westlake UMC. So, on behalf of my new friend, I offer many, many thanks to the kind, beautiful women of Westlake UMC for your open hearts (and open closets!).



SAVE THE DATE! 3/11- POINT IN THE WORLD- CROP WALK FOR HUNGER ON TOWN LAKE. Sponsored by the Church World Service (an international relief, development and refugee resettlement agency), CROP stands for 'Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty.' On Sunday, March 11th, we'll meet at 2:00pm at Auditorium Shores for a walk around Town Lake, raising money and awareness for local and global hunger, and helping agencies that feed people. You can participate by (1) walking & asking donors to sponsor your walk (2) being a 'Spirit Walker', raising funds though unable to physically walk, and (3) sponsoring someone else on their walk

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WUMC Members Attend United Methodist Women Legislative Event

Cathy Barton, Linda Cox, and Leslye Wakefield recently attended the UMW Texas Legislative Event in downtown Austin. The purpose of the program is to bring together United Methodist Women from across the state to learn about state policy and issues that are of concern to United Methodist Women in advocating for social justice. After two days of listening to presentations by Legislators, church leaders, and non-profit organizations across the state, UMW members met in caucus to create a 2012 UMW Legislative Event Agenda, printed below:

UMW Texas Legislative Event Agenda for 2012

State Budget

We affirm that the state budget is underfunded, structurally unsound, and insufficient to meet the needs of the people of Texas. We are especially concerned that the education budget is woefully underfunded. Texas needs a public school budget that fully funds enrollment growth, guarantees funding to implement state educational requirements, and fulfills Texas' constitutional mandate to provide free public schools. A generation of litigation has squandered the public's resources and must end. Texas needs a real budget to meet our real needs, even if it takes new revenue.

Immigration

Texas must use our limited state law enforcement resources to keep Texas communities safe, not to enforce federal civil immigration laws. The Legislature must avoid wasting valuable time

debating punitive state immigration policies that have little or no chance of actual implementation. We call on Texas legislators to use their influence in encouraging the Texas Congressional delegation to enact compassionate federal immigration reform.

Predatory Lending

The Legislature should build on the foundation of sensible regulation of payday and auto-title lending established in 2011 and work to eliminate the cycle of debt in the 2013 legislative session through strategies such as limiting roll-overs, capping fees and allowing partial payments.

Health and Wellness

Legislators should maintain and strengthen Medicaid and CHIP, and ensure that Texans receive the maximum benefit due them through the provisions of the Affordable Care Act such as access to affordable private health insurance. Lawmakers should renew and strengthen initiatives to improve Texans' health and wellness through nutrition and preventive health programs.

Women and Youth in the Criminal Justice System

We call on legislators to guarantee humane treatment for all Texans caught up in the state's criminal justice system, especially the most vulnerable, including women, children and youth. We urge the Legislature to increase access to mental health and substance abuse treatment for offenders. We are concerned about disproportionately punitive treatment of youthful nonviolent offenders, and we urge legislators to reward prudence and wisdom in ticketing, sentencing and incarceration of juveniles.

MISSION TRIPS

Time to register for your summer mission trips! We will have information and sign-up sheets at the Tent the next few weeks! Sr. High trip to North Carolina July 5th-16th. Jr. High trip (local missions) July 29th – August 3rd. Registration for each is \$100 and we will be doing fundraising to help offset some of the expenses. Look for reviews from our youth in the coming newsletters explaining what a wonderful gift these trips are the how they are impossible without the Stock fundraiser!



(News from the Point Continued from Page 1)

We'll have cool t-shirts for sale to increase our visibility, and we'll have a way for donors to sponsor your walk online, so raising money will be EASY PEASY! You can sign up to walk with us (1) at the Tent (in the Gym) on Sundays 10-11:15am, (2) at Point Praise, or (3) on our website:

www.westlake-umc.org/seekthepoint

AT POINT PRAISE, WE'VE BEEN ASKING, 'WHAT'S GOOD ABOUT US'?

Pastor Jim has helped us explore the goodness in the human character and showed that it was no accident. We are made in God's image, and that image within is a source of our goodness. Pastor J showed us how several scientists have claimed in the last five years that human beings are "hardwired" to believe in God. Drawing an analogy between our hardwiring and the wifi chip in a laptop, Pastor J argued that we are hardwired to receive an inner light of God's presence, a transmission of God's spirit that Quakers called the Inward Light. The SOURCE of the divine spark is not in our brain, but outside of us. This Inward Light calls us to connect with God and each other, so that we can become more than what we can be on our own. By opening our lives to the Inward Light, we are able to transcend the limits of who we are.



WE ALSO EXPLORED THE IDEA THAT LIFE IS RISKY BUSINESS! Can we dare to live?? Blessed by the musical gifts of Joey McGee, we focused on the idea that God gave us a heart for risks because we're meant to take risks for good. God understands our fear. In fact, the most frequent imperative in the Gospel is "Fear not!" Our fears are the giants we face that block our way. When we 'go it alone' to face our giants, we draw only on ourselves, but when we seek goals in ways that God will bless and invite Him into the fray, the Spirit of God multiplies and amplifies the courage we have in our hearts. Pastor J challenged us to dare to live like a 'SAINT':

- S- See through our giants.
- A- Assemble our strengths.
- IN- INVite God into the battle.
- T- Take the first step.

YOUTUBE! We've got a channel! Go to <http://www.youtube.com/user/seekthepoint> to see videos of Point in the World excursions to Lyons Garden and Under the Bridge.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SIGN UP FOR 2/12- POINT IN THE WORLD Won't you come and change the world with us? As part of our mission to love the lonely & the forgotten, we'll go into the world to throw a party for patients of the Austin State Hospital (ASH) accompanied by the ASH professional staff who will mentor & guide us in planning &

activities. **We especially need folks for our snack and music teams**, so sign up online today! The minimum age for participation is 16, so we will be providing FREE CHILD-CARE at the church for children under 16 years of age. We'll meet at the gym at the church at 12:00 pm to car-pool and arrive at ASH at 12:45 pm, giving us time to set up. The party will last from 1:30-2:30 pm, and then we will return to the church. If you prefer to meet us at ASH at 12:45 pm, let us know, and we will send you a map.

There are many roles to play! **If you can't attend on the 12th, but want to be a part of this ministry, you can still sign up to join the snack team and help by making sandwiches, dip, cookies, cakes, etc.** Don't be nervous---the professional staff will be guiding and helping. Choose whatever you'd like to do but please let us know so we can coordinate everything:

The Snack Team: ASH patients LOVE snacks, so we will be providing munchies and punch. **There are special dietary restrictions, so let me know you'd like to help, and I'll send the information.** You can make things ahead of time and drop them off at the church or come with us to serve snacks during the party. This is a great team for bakers or shoppers!

The Music Team: ASH patients LOVE music! I will be bringing my guitar and leading us in some fun sing-alongs. Perfect rhythm and pitch are NOT required.

The Game Team: ASH patients LOVE games. They have ping pong, table hockey, basketball, and many, many other games that can be played in groups or one-on-one. Your job will be to invite and play!

The Mingle Team: ASH patients LOVE to visit. Your job will be to introduce yourself and have conversations. This is a great job for chatty folks!

**If you have a 5th grader, FISH (Fifth graders In Service to Him) will be meeting that same day to make and deliver Valentines to the Monte Siesta Elder Care Facility. All 5th graders are welcome—simply email Hilary Martin at hmartin@westlake-umc.org to reserve a spot and send your 5th grader with \$5 for lunch.

2/19- POINT PRAISE RETURNS: Praise starts at 6:30pm, but feel free to join us for Point Dinner at 5:30 pm, featuring meat, vegetarian and gluten-free entrées at \$7 per plate. Dinner reservations are never required but ALWAYS appreciated. FREE childcare is provided. Consider your reservation an act of love~

WANT TO CHANGE THE WORLD? Do you have ideas about how it can be a better place? Join our Point-in-the-World Team to brainstorm and plan projects for our monthly Point in the World outings. Projects should accommodate a group of people and address the needs of "The Least, The Last, The Forgotten, and The Lost." If you're interested, email seekthepoint@gmail.com.

Make the Journey!
Tonya



Lent begins with Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday, in the calendar of Western Christianity, is the first day of Lent and occurs 46 days before Easter. It falls on a different date each year because it is dependent on the date of Easter. It can occur as early as February 4 or as late as March 10. This year Ash Wednesday takes place on February 22nd and we will have a service at 12pm and 6pm in the worship center which **includes the imposition of ashes.**

According to the Canonical gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus spent forty days fasting in the desert before the beginning of his public ministry, during which he endured temptation by Satan. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of this forty day liturgical period of prayer and fasting.

Ash Wednesday derives its name from the practice of placing ashes on the foreheads of adherents as a sign of mourning and repentance to God. The ashes used are typically gathered after the palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday are burned.

The Season of Lent & Easter

Lent, the 40 days before Easter (not counting Sundays), begins with Ash Wednesday and runs for six Sundays including Passion/Palm Sunday. Earliest emphasis was upon preparation for baptism and membership. Later emphasis turned toward penitence. Recent practice is to return to discipline and learning in preparation for the Easter celebration. The color purple is traditionally associated with this season.

The Paschal Triduum (Maundy Thursday through Easter Sunday) and what it means.

The Lord's Supper - In the concrete act of washing his disciples' feet, Jesus showed that love has to take flesh in action. He showed this once again when he shared the bread and cup and then gave himself up to death on the cross, a death he endured for us.

Into the Tomb - Jesus' death and burial looked for all the world like the end of everything he had lived for. But the power of God was not limited by the silence of the tomb or the darkness of death.

Christ is Risen - What is the life that Jesus won for us? We will come to know it not only in the resurrection of the dead, but as we believe in him and experience the forgiveness of our sins. Alleluia!

Easter is the "queen of feasts" and lasts not a day or week but a week of weeks. So all of the Sundays are labeled Sundays of Easter, not Sundays after Easter. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday are inextricably linked with Easter Day in what is called Triduum. Together, these three days straddle the seasons of Lent and Easter. Easter is a season of great rejoicing which culminates in the Day of Pentecost. Hence, in this season we represent those central events of our faith: the Crucifixion, the Resurrection, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. The seasonal color is white.



ITS HERE!!!!

The new Westlake Van has arrived! The many ministries of this church family can be seen driving through town (especially the youth) in our new, safe, reliable vehicle. Our van is a 2011 E350 which makes it very safe and sturdy. The youth have already put a few miles on the van taking a some extra trips for impromptu youth lunch meetings, now that we can all ride together, and the Bible Studies (isn't it awesome that we have several!!) have been allowed much more efficient travel in the last week. We are so thankful for our church family blessing us with this wonderful and much needed gift! Thank you and look for us around town spreading the good news!

YOUTH BOWLING TRIP

SUNDAY February 26th 3-6pm

Bring your friends as we head out for some fun and games! cost is \$7 and you can sign up by emailing JD at jdherrera@westlake-umc.org.



Happy Birthday

Haak, Lee Roy 2/9
Matheney, III James Waters 2/9
Cazares, Alex 2/9
Grove, Zilker Moon 2/10
Smith, IV French 2/10
Leifeste, Alison 2/10
Ruback - Balthazar, Katie 2/10
Price, William 2/10
Barton, Mike 2/10
Graham, Eugenia B-Dugie 2/11
Miller, Danielle Renee 2/11
Bass, Leslie Tucker-Tucker 2/11
Sherhart, Patrick J. (P. J.) 2/12
Langley, Matthew Kyle 2/12
Berry, Laura 2/12
Kidd, Kelly 2/13
Smith, Bill 2/13
Malkani, Patrick 2/13
Thornhill, Gabriel 2/13
Davis, Peggy 2/14
Lindsey, Margie 2/14
Pena, Austin J. 2/14
Goodell, Laura 2/14
Dare, Trevor Patrick 2/15
Miller, Sheri 2/16
Cornelius, Byron 2/16
Castle, Teresa 2/16
Eisman, Karen 2/17
Becker, Jennifer Ann-Jenny 2/18
Cravey, Rebecca 2/18
Barton, Cathy 2/18
Lopez, Rogerio -Roger 2/18
Daetwyler, Harper Rose 2/19
Walters, Elizabeth Grace 2/19
Mann, Garred 2/19
Sullivan, Kent 2/20
Wilson, Evelyn Graham 2/20
Sanderson, Tatiana 2/20
Sanderson, Parker 2/20
Sanderson, Spencer 2/20
Summers, Glenda 2/21
Hayner, Laura 2/21
Graham, David W. 2/22
Games, Bill 2/22
Perkins, David 2/22
Carlisle, Ashley Danielle 2/22
Hooten, James Douglas-Doug 2/22

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AND THOSE BAPTIZED

On Feb. 5, the Bogle family joined our church, with Alison coming by transfer from another denomination. Her husband is Scott. Their three children Anastasia, Sofia, and James, will be baptized soon. Also on that day, the Hooks joined our church, coming from another denomination. Doug and Elizabeth have three children--Riley, Morgan, and Jesse.



LETTERS

WUMC recently received two greetings from Macedonia.

From Igor's Grandmother/Sonja's Mother, Biba Kosi-
jer: Happy New Year, 2012, to your big family and one
big THANK YOU for everything you do for my family.

From Igor's friend Ivan, and his family, Marija, Kosta
and Sara Bozovi: Merry Christmas and Happy New
Year! From all of our hearts. We thank you for taking
care of our friends and wish you a healthy 2012.

Also, thank you so much for your kind words of sym-
pathy and comfort during this time of our loss and
grief. The love and support of others make the un-
bearable more bearable. With deep appreciation, The fam-
ily of Jennifer Bourianoff.

That's Amore



*February 18
6:30pm*

*A Romantic Candlelight Dinner
with entertainment provided by
Westlake UMC Musicians*

*Adults tickets are \$25.00 each
Children are \$12.00
(includes babysitting and dinner)*

*Tickets on sale now through Feb. 12
Call 327-1335 ext. 15 for more information
or visit www.westlake-umc.org*

*Proceeds go the Bastrop Fire Relief Fund and
WUMC Endowment Fund*

STAFF BOX

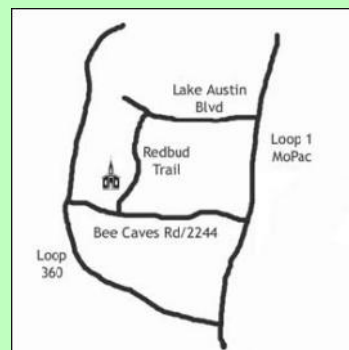


Westlake United Methodist Church
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REV. DR. LYNN P. BARTON, Senior Pastor
924-6983 (cell)
REV. JIM AUSTIN, Associate Pastor
DR. DIANA SANCHEZ-BUSHONG, Worship & Music
HILARY MARTIN, Director of Children's Ministries
FRANK WEBSTER, Foundation Director
SHERYL STACK, Organist, Youth Choir Accompanist
SUSAN FINNIGAN, Director of Handbells Ministries
J. D. HERRERA, Youth Minister
HELEN MARROW, Office Manager
TANYA WYCHE, Bookkeeper
SHARON COLEMAN, Preschool Director
VINH-NGHI LUU, Nursery Coordinator
MARIA GONZALES, Custodian
SHEVAWN EISMAN, Newsletter Editor
MONICA BUSHONG, Music Assistant
DIANE HART, Assistant Youth Director

CONTACT US

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Office Hours: M-Th 9:00 - 5:00, Fri. 9:00-2:00
Preschool Office: 327-1337
Directions to WUMC:



Next Newsletter Deadline: Thursday, February 16
Please submit stories and announcements to our
newsletter editor: shevawn@aol.com.

FOLLOWING ONE
SERVING ALL

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, would you please be so kind as to write "Refused" and then place it unopened in your mailbox? That way we'll be certain to remove your name from our mailing list and you'll be helping us to use very precious resources wisely. Thank you for your cooperation!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED